

In the Claims

1 - 29. (cancelled)

30. (previously presented) A powder container and dispensing device comprising a container which in use is partially filled with the powder and includes a neck, a powder dispensing nozzle provided in the wall of the container at the outer end of the container neck, the nozzle being of the type having one or more small holes through which powder can be ejected, the powder being dispensable by squeezing the container to pressurize its contents, and an intermediate powder reservoir in or on which some of the powder within the container becomes lodged in use, wherein the intermediate reservoir comprises a cup which is fitted within the neck with the closed end of the cup spaced from the nozzle, and the closed end of the cup includes a plurality of small holes therein to allow powder to enter the interior of the cup and in which powder can become lodged, such that on squeezing the container, powder lodging in or on the intermediate reservoir is entrained in the airflow through the hole or holes in the nozzle to be discharged therewith, so that in general during each discharge action only powder in or on the intermediate reservoir will exit via the nozzle.

31. (previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 30 wherein the action of squeezing the container in use also causes other of the powder in the container to replace powder that has left the intermediate reservoir, so that the latter is replenished by each squeeze ready to be discharged with the next squeeze, or the replenishment is achieved by gently squeezing, tilting, inverting or tilting and gently squeezing the container prior to squeezing the container to discharge powder through the nozzle.

32. (previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 30, wherein the intermediate reservoir comprises an apertured plate or a filter fitted in the neck of the container just below but spaced from the nozzle.

33. (previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 32, wherein the filter or plate is formed from a woven fabric such as woven wire or a woven plastics mesh.

34. (previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 30, wherein the intermediate reservoir comprises two apertured plates or filters fitted within the neck, a first having smaller openings than the second in which the first is sandwiched between the nozzle and the

second and each serves to hold a charge of powder, and when the container is squeezed the charge of powder in the first plate or filter is discharged through the nozzle openings, the charge of powder in the second plate or filter is transferred to the first filter, and the second plate or filter is recharged with powder from within the container.

35. (previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 34, wherein each filter or plate is formed from a woven fabric such as woven wire or a woven plastics mesh.

36. (previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 30, wherein the nozzle is formed by a second cup which fits over and around the neck, the closed end of the second cup including one exit aperture through which powder is discharged when the container is squeezed.

37. (previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 36, wherein the second cup is slidable relative to the neck and an elongate protrusion extends from the closed end of the first cup towards the closed end of the second cup in alignment with the exit aperture in the closed end of the second cup, the movement of the second cup relative to the neck enabling the exit aperture to be positioned clear of the end of the protrusion to permit powder to exit, but also enabling the second cup to be moved so that the end of the protrusion enters and closes off the exit aperture to prevent powder from leaving.

38. (previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 37, wherein the neck is cylindrical and the second cup includes an inner concentric cylindrical wall which is a sliding fit within the neck, or within the first cup fitted within the neck.

39. (previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 37, wherein the second cup is a snap fit around a radial protrusion from the wall of the neck to prevent the cup from being pulled completely off the neck.

40. (previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 30, wherein the holes in the intermediate reservoir are arranged in a rectilinear array or matrix.

41. (previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 30, wherein the cross-section of each hole in the cup tapers from the end adjacent the interior of the container to the end

adjacent the nozzle.

42. (previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 30, wherein the container wall is resiliently deformable by squeezing and will in general revert to its normal shape when the squeezing force is removed.

43. (currently amended) A method of discharging powder from a powder container and dispensing device as claimed in claim [[1]]30, comprising the steps of gently squeezing, tilting, inverting or tilting and gently squeezing the container to charge the intermediate reservoir, and thereafter squeezing the flexible container wall to again pressurise the contents of the container and force powder in the intermediate reservoir through the nozzle, and simultaneously to recharge the intermediate reservoir with a fresh charge of powder.

44. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 43, wherein prior to squeezing the container to dislodge powder, it is rotated into an upright or near upright condition so that powder not retained in or on the intermediate reservoir falls away from the discharge end of the container so as not to be available to be discharged.

45. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 43, wherein the nozzle opening is covered or blocks temporarily while the intermediate reservoir is charged or recharged with powder.

46. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 43, wherein the powder is talcum powder.